

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 AGR-05 STR-04 SAM-01 SAB-01 /126 W

----- 016301

R 151326Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9731

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, ECON, ECIN, SU, EG, LY

SUBJ: NIMEIRI BLASTS COMMUNISTS IN NATIONAL ADDRESS

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, IN APRIL 14 MONTHLY
TV AND RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION, CONCENTRATED FIRE ON
"COMMUNIST" ATTEMPT CREATE DISSENTION IN SUDAN. WHILE
ACCUSATIONS NO DOUBT RELATED TO RECENT INCREASE IN UNDER-GROUND
COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA, NIMEIRI OBVIOUSLY GROUPING ALL
HIS OPPONENTS UNDER "COMMUNIST" RUBRIC. AS SUCH HIS REMARKS
CONSTITUTE LATEST ROUND IN HIS CONTINUING BALANCING ACT WITH ERST-
WHILE

BK SERISTS AND NATIONAL COMMUNISTS NOW PROMINENT IN SSU
(KHARTOUM 351). END SUMMARY.

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1. NIMEIRI FORCEFULLY AND EXPLICITLY CHARGED "COMMUNISTS" WITH VARIETY OF DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES INTENDED TO DESTROY CONFIDENCE IN REGIME. ALLEGED COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES INCLUDED GENERAL CAMPAIGN OF RUMOR-MONGERING; DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-REGIME LEAFLETS IN THE TOWN OF SINGA PRIOR TO NIMEIRI'S RECENT VISIT AND SUBSEQUENT RUMORS THAT TRIP WAS UNSUCCESSFUL; RUMORS THAT RECENT GOVERNMENT CHANGES WOULD LEAD TO NATIONALIZATION AND CONFISCATION OF PRIVATE INTERESTS, SPECIFICALLY IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY; RUMORS THAT NEW RESHUFFLE IS IMMINENT, INCLUDING RETURN TO GOVERNMENT OF LEFTIST MEMBERS OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL, DISMISSAL OF PRESENT MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND EDUCATION, AND REPLACEMENT OF NIMEIRI AS DEFENSE MINISTER; EXPLOITATION OF RECENT ARMY MUTINY IN AKOBO; CHARGES THAT "NASSERISM" IS TAKING HOLD IN SUDAN; AND ALLEGATION THAT GOS INTERESTED IN REVIVING TRIPOLI CHARTER. NIMEIRI NOTED APPARENT HARMONY BETWEEN COMMUNISTS OUTSIDE AND WITHIN THE SUDAN, SAYING THAT PAMPHLETS RECENTLY APPEARING IN COUNTRY WERE STRIKINGLY SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT HAD APPEARED IN LEFTIST LEBANESE PUBLICATION.

2. NIMEIRI THEN RESPONDED WITH CATEGORICAL DENIALS AND REFUTATIONS. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE OR MAJOR CHANGES IN MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS. RE NATIONALIZATION AND CONFISCATION, HE SAID NO ACTION WAS CONTEMPLATED AND ADDED THAT GOS FULLY SUPPORTS PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN SUDANESE DEVELOPMENT AND HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH PRIVATE PROPERTY. HE ADDED THAT FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF PLANS TO NATIONALIZE TEXTILE INDUSTRY HAD RESULTED IN FAILURE OF KUWAITIS TO GIVE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN DURING RECENT VISIT OF AMIR. RUMORS OF BUDDING NASSERISM WERE UNFOUNDED AND UNJUST, HE SAID, EXPLAINING THAT NASSER WAS GREAT. AN WHOSE POLICIES, HOWEVER, WERE TAILORED FOR EGYPT. NIMEIRI DENIED RENEWED SUDANESE INTEREST IN TRIPOLI CHARTER WHICH, HE SAID, HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, AND SAID THAT ECONOMIC INTERGRATION BETWEEN SUDAN AND LIBYA WAS "STILL BEING STUDIED". FURTHER DEFUSING IDEA THAT GOS PREPARED SURRENDER SOVEREIGNTY, NIMEIRI SPOKE INSTEAD OF NEED FOR "ARAB SOLIDARITY".

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3. WITHOUT IDENTIFYING SSU DEPUTY SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ABUL GASSIM MOHAMMED IBRAHIM BY NAME, NIMEIRI QUITE POINTEDLY CRITICIZED A "RESPONSIBLE MINISTER" FOR HAVING RECENTLY, WHILE OUTSIDE OF THE SUDAN, SPOKEN OUT ON THE QUESTION OF ARAB IDEOLOGY. (HIS CRITICISM OF "ARAB REACTION" CITED IN TRIPOLI 410.) NIMEIRI THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT ERRONEOUS TO

CLASSIFY ARAB COUNTRIES INTO REVOLUTIONARY, MODERATE
AND REACTIONARY CATEGORIES. ARAB COUNTRIES, HE SAID,
SHOULD BE JUDGED ONLY BY EXTENT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO
ARAB CAUSE.

4. NIMEIRI REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND US
ROLE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

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5. COMMENT. NIMEIRI DECISION TO STRIKE OUT AT
"COMMUNISTS" APPARENTLY RELATED BOTH TO RECENT UPSURGE IN
COMMUNIST PAMPHLETEERING AND RUMOR-MONGERING ON VARIETY
OF SUBJECTS AND TO HIS SENSITIVITY TO WIDELY HELD
NOTION THAT RECENT GOVERNMENT CHANGES MOVED REGIME SEVERAL
STEPS TO LEFT AND MIGHT FORESHADOW LEFTIST
ECONOMIC MEASURES. ALSO, NIMEIRI HAD AVOIDED FOR

SOME TIME VISITING SINGA, WHICH KNOWN CENTER OF ANTI-NIMEIRI SENTIMENT. PRESS HAD FOR THREE DAYS FOLLOWING HIS VISIT HEADLINED ITS SUCCESS, INDICATING THAT NIMEIRI KEENLY FELT NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT OPPOSITION IN THE REGION WAS A MYTH. IN HIS SPEECH, NIMEIRI REPEATED THAT MOST DEMANDS MADE BY SINGA CITIZENS WOULD BE MET. NIMEIRI STRONG CRITICISM OF COMMUNISTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS DENIAL OF IMPENDING UNITY WITH LIBYA, AND HIS IMPLICIT CASTIGATION OF IBRAHIM FOR HIS TOBRUK REMARKS ALL WILL NO DOUBT BE WELCOME TO CONSERVATIVE EARS AS WELL AS MIRROR CURRENT STANCE SADAT (CAIRO 3734) AND IRAQIS (KHARTOUM 921). ABOVE ALL, HOWEVER, NIMEIRI'S SPEECH WAS ASSERTION OF LEADERSHIP AND WARNING TO LEFTIST OR OPPORTUNISTS ELEMENTS IN GOVERNMENT AND SSU AGAINST ATTEMPTING FORCE SUDAN FROM ITS PRESENT MODERATE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICY. IN THIS SENSE, HIS ADDRESS CONSTITUTES LATEST ROUND IN NIMEIRI'S CONTINUING BALANCING ACT WITH ERSTWHILE NASSERISTS AND NATIONAL COMMUNISTS WHO PROMINENT IN RECENT SUDANESE POLITICAL INFIGHTING (KHARTOUM 351). BREWER

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